

Mission Statement

"The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness."

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Room 217

MINUTES

Attendance: Members—Krishna Adhikari, Charles Andrews (acting chair), Charles Cleary, Helga Gordon, Judy Wyman Kelly (Secretary), Margaret Liu, Karyl Shaughnessy, and Barry Walters. Town liaison, Marcia Lewis.

- **Minutes:** It was moved (Judy K) and seconded (Karyl) that the 9.1.15 meeting minutes be approved with no changes. The vote passed unanimously.
- **International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, update:** schools are onboard to honor International Human Rights day again this year. Commissioners signed up to visit the following schools to lend support to the effort: **King Philip:** Karyl and Helga; **Braeburn:** Barry; **Hall:** Margaret; **Conard/Webster Hill:** Judy K. Other Commissions will fill in as needed.
- **Next year's calendar, including January 2017 meeting:** Commissioners decided on meeting dates for 2016-January, 2017 meetings: first Tuesday of alternate months except the July meeting will be held on June 28. Meetings to be held from 7-8:30 pm in Town Hall. Room, to be determined.
- **One Book One Town update, #1book1townWH:** kick-off went well on Nov. 7. Selected book, *Outcastes United*, by Warren St. John, deals with themes of immigrants, community, and sports, among others. Commissioners decided to read the book during the next two months and discuss relevant themes and the role the Commission can play in the "One Book One Town" initiative at the next meeting in January, 2016.
- **CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project:** Margaret introduced the Commission to this project which aggregates data on police activity in various towns throughout CT. The Commission decided to look at the West Hartford data (<http://www.ctrp3.org/>) over the next few months and come prepared to discuss at the January, 2016 meeting. There was mention of inviting someone from the police department to the March meeting.

- **Charter of Compassion/City of Compassion:** Chuck C. reintroduced the Charter of Compassion model as a possibility for West Hartford. Chuck C. and Chuck A. decided to reach out to Milford and Danbury (two towns that have signed on to the Charter) to get more information. They will report back at January, 2016 meeting. More information can be accessed at: <http://charterforcompassion.org/>
- **Mission Statement:** Commissioners discussed whether or not to shorten the mission statement. Marcia L. will first check with the town lawyer to make sure we are legally permitted to make changes, as it is tied to the state/town definitions of human rights. This will be put at top of January agenda.
- **Other business**
 - a. **Brochure for newly-arrived immigrants.** Krishna and Marcia will form a subcommittee and invite others (non-Commission members) to help draft a brochure to help newly-arrived immigrants. The possibility of collaborating with Hartford was discussed.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 7:00 pm, room 400.
- **Adjournment:** It was moved (Judy K) and seconded (Karyl) that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Judy Wyman Kelly